

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 3, 19, and 32 have been amended. Claims 30 and 31 have been canceled without disclaimer or prejudice. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Office Action, at page 2, claims 1, 17, 18, 28, 29, 30, 31, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wagner et al. (6,817,585 – hereinafter “Wagner”).

On page 4, claims 3-16, 19-22, and 24-27 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 30 and 31 have been canceled.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 19. Independent claim 32 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 19. For this reason, *inter alia*, independent claims 1 and 32 are also allowable. Therefore, claims 17, 18, 28, and 29, which depend on amended independent claim 1 are allowable.

Claims 2 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wagner in view of O'Neill (5,310,152).

Claims 2 and 23 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of that claim plus additional features, which are not taught or suggested by the cited reference. Therefore, for at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2 and 23 also patentably distinguish over the cited reference.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

On page 4, claims 3-16, 19-22, and 24-27 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 3 has been rewritten to incorporate claims 1 and 2. Thus, claim 3 is allowable. Claims 4-11 and 24-27 depend on amended, independent claim 3. Thus, claims 4-11 and 24-27 are also allowable.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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